

For Immediate Release

Tuesday, July 19, 2011

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Mayor Coleman to Implement Operation Cool Down from 1-4 pm through Friday

Mayor Michael B. Coleman, Columbus City Councilmember Michelle M. Mills are urging residents to seek options for staying safe and healthy during this week's oppressive heat wave. Because of the extraordinary heat, Mayor Coleman announced the city will implement Operation Cool Down, opening four city fire hydrants to offer residents an additional option for staying cool and having fun. The hydrants will be turned on at a controlled, safe level between 1 and 4 p.m. Wednesday, Thursday and Friday of this week.

The locations are:

- **Linden Park** in front of 1254 Briarwood Ave.
- **Beatty Recreation Center** in front of 180 M. North Ohio Ave.
- **Lincoln Park Elementary School** at East Markison Ave. and Ann St.
- **Westgate Park** at Wicklow and S. Southampton Ave.

The areas will be blocked from traffic and supervised by Columbus city staff.

"During this oppressively hot week, we want to offer our residents some relief and some fun," Mayor Coleman said. "I urge our residents to seek other options for staying cool throughout the day and to check on their neighbors to make sure they're safe."

Mayor Coleman urges all Columbus residents to take extra steps to stay cool and safe this week. In addition to today's Operation Cool Down Centers, residents are invited to visit any of Columbus Recreation and Parks' eight air-conditioned recreation centers:

Gillie 50+ Center, 2100 Morse Rd, Monday-Friday, 8 a.m.-5 p.m.
Martin Janis 50+ Center, 600 East 11th, Monday-Friday, 8 a.m.-5 p.m.
Dodge Community Center, 667 Sullivant Ave., Monday-Thursday, 8 a.m.-6 p.m. and Friday, 8 a.m.-6 p.m. Monday-Friday.
Marion Franklin Community Center, 2801 Lockbourne Rd. Monday-Friday, 8 a.m.-6 p.m.
Lazelle Woods Community Center, 8140 Sancus Blvd, Monday-Friday, 8 a.m.-8 p.m.
Beatty Community Center, 274 N. Ohio Ave., Monday - Friday, 9:00 a.m. - 6:00 p.m.
Brentnell Community Center, 1280 Brentnell, Monday-Friday, 9 a.m.-6 p.m.
Whetstone Community Center, 3923 North High Street, Monday-Friday, 8 am-8 pm
These hours will be effective until August 5.

Recreation and Parks also operates five Pools:

Tuttle Park, 240 Oakland Ave.

Windsor, 1300 Windsor Ave

Maryland, 3080 Atcheson Ave

Dodge, 545 Sullivant Ave

Marion Franklin, 2699 Lockbourne Rd

The sprayground at Barnett Recreation Center, 1184 Barnett Road, is open, and the new fountains at the Scioto Mile are available as well.

Columbus Public Health also offers residents tips to stay cool:

(more)

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- Air-conditioning is the number one protective factor against heat-related illness and death. During conditions of extreme heat, spend time in locations with air-conditioning such as shopping malls or public libraries.
- Drink cool, nonalcoholic beverages and increase your fluid intake, regardless of your activity level. Water is your best option. Do not wait until you are thirsty.
- During heavy exercise in a hot environment, be sure to drink two to four glasses (16-32 ounces) of cool fluids each hour.
- Use your stove and oven less to maintain a cooler temperature in your home. Eat light meals.
- Electric fans may provide comfort, but when the temperature is in the high 90s fans will not prevent heat-related illness. Taking a cool shower or bath or moving to an air-conditioned place is a much better way to cool off.
- Never leave infants, children or pets in a parked car, even if the windows are cracked open.
- Choose lightweight, light-colored, loose-fitting clothing and a hat.
- If you must be outdoors, try to limit your outdoor activity to morning and evening hours. Rest often in shady areas so that your body's thermostat will have a chance to recover.

Also, in partnership with the Columbus Division of Fire, fan collection and distribution is occurring daily at LifeCare Alliance's Meals Distribution Facility, 670 Harmon Avenue for individuals and families who need them most.

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